### **Hoosier National Forest**

### Native Plant Material Program





### Forest Programs and Projects Using Native Plant Materials

- Wildlife/Botany Native seeding and plantings:
  - Early Successional Habitat Areas (wildlife openings)
  - Vernal wetlands and larger bottomland wetland projects
  - Native Seed and Pollinator Resource Areas (newly created & continued enhancement/expansion) Haskins, Mifflin, Stillion sites
  - Tell City RD Pollinator Garden, Hoosier Native Seed Nursery
- <u>Timber</u> Skid roads, log landings, and closed roads
- <u>Engineering/transportation</u> New roads along roadsides/ditches (where necessary)
- Recreation New trails, dispersed campsites

### Forest Programs and Projects Using Native Plant Materials

- Soil and Water
  - Trash dump clean-up sites
  - Levee and pond dam maintenance, access road maintenance
  - Culver replacement/streambank stabilization
  - Buildings/fence removal sites
  - Mine reclamation
- Special Uses New underground utility lines/pipelines
- Fire Firelines

#### First Effort – Hoosier Native Seed Nursery

- Established in 1995
- Initially 15 plant beds created
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources tilled the site
- Volunteers from Indiana University and Indiana Native Plant Society collected seed from off the Forest
- Fifteen different native grass and wildflower species collected
- Seedlings grown at two local high schools, one vocational school, and three area universities
- Seedlings planted during Take Pride of America day by Nature Conservancy, Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society volunteers





#### **Hoosier Native Seed Nursery**



Seed collection



#### **Hoosier Native Seed Nursery**

- Take Pride in America Day
- Volunteer participation every event for 15 years
- Weed Removal in the Blazingstar seed beds





### Tell City Ranger District Native Plant Pollinator Garden

Getting started 2008 –
 preparing the garden and first
 plants put in the garden





# Tell City Ranger District Native Plant Pollinator Garden



- NFN3 Native Plant Funding Project established in 2007
- Partnership with Quail Unlimited seeded 100 acres with no-till drill in early summer 2007
- Six grasses and eighteen forbs used in seed mixtures
- Forest personnel mowed area in late 2007 and July 2008
- Created two vernal wetlands in 2008
- Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources seeded 100 acres with no-till drill in Fall 2008 and inter-seeding in 2009 on 7 acres
- Stewardship services project mowed area in 2009 and 2010
- Prescribed burning conducted in April 2010

Fall 2008 - after first seeding





Vernal wetland – Fall 2008



 Soil Scientist Zach Rigg inspecting the no-till drill



Vernal wetland - summer 2009



Summer 2009 - after seeding and mowing

Prescribed burning done in April 2010





Mid-summer 2010









## Mifflin Restoration Native Seed Production and Pollinator Resource Area

Old Pastures – Prior to work – 2008 and 2009







## Mifflin Restoration Native Seed Production and Pollinator Resource Area

Site preparation - 2009

 Tilling, vernal pool creation, and herbicide application



## Mifflin Restoration Native Seed Production and Pollinator Resource Area

- Early to mid-summer 2009
  - Vernal wetlands STEP student and volunteer planting native species container stock







# Stillion Tract Native Seed Production and Pollinator Resource Area

Before and After – 2010
 Herbicide Application









### Other Wildlife Openings Using Native Plant Materials

- Harris Tract Created Covey
   Headquarters with native shrub
   plantings IDNR, National Wild
   Turkey Federation volunteers
- Native species inter-seeding of seven grasses and five native forbs with no-till drill on 10 acres
- Warm season grasses seed collection







- Native Plant Materials Availability
  - Forest NPM seed is available for collection from about 140 acres on the Haskins, Mifflin, Stillion project areas
  - Also collect native seed in fields dominated by warm season grasses and from the Hoosier Native Seed Nursery
- Local sources used in Forest project areas with NPM:
  - Roundstone Native Seed grasses and forbs seed mixture
  - JFNew container stock, plugs, and shrubs, (also sell trees and seed mixtures)
  - Spence Restoration Nursery plugs (also sell seed mixtures)
  - Vallonia State Nursery trees and shrubs
  - Orange County Coop –limited to few species and cover crop seed such as winter wheat

#### Future Needs/Projects –

- Create additional Native Seed and Pollinator Resource Areas
- Enhancement of native seed areas by inter-seeding, plantings
- Create storage facilities for seed and improve seed cleaning abilities
- Increase native plant diversity for nectar sources and milkweed species availability for monarch butterflies
- Expand interpretive programs and outreach to locally interested parties
- Create future Stewardship projects that include reestablishment of native plant species as part of the services received
- Seek partnerships/collaboration in obtaining appropriate local native plant material

#### Forest Accomplishments –

- Establishment of Native Seed and Pollinator Resource Areas, plus
   Tell City RD Native Plant and Pollinator Garden, Native Seed Nursery
- Partnership with Quail Unlimited and funding by Answer the Call grant
- Partnership with National Wild Turkey Federation for planting of native shrubs in wildlife openings
- Coordination with Forest wildlife program for creation and maintenance of native seed resource areas, including using wildlife funding sources
- Partnership with Indiana Department of Natural Resource, Fish and Wildlife – conducting mowing, tilling, seeding, shrub planting
- Multiple funding used for native seeding projects and creation of native seed resource areas that included NFN3, NFWF, and NFVW sources
- Maintenance/enhancement of Native Seed and Pollinator Resource Areas by prescribed burning – WFHF funds

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